



Discussion Guide
Over/It — Part 4
LEADER GUIDE

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We spend so much of our lives trying to prove we're okay—to ourselves, to others, even to God. But the resurrection is God's final word: you are fully forgiven, fully accepted, and free to live differently. This series explores how that truth becomes real, present power in our everyday lives.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."
[Martin Luther]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
 - This section of 1 Corinthians talks about Jesus' resurrection and the grace that it offers those who believe, and their faith is not "in vain." This is faith that receives grace and new life from the resurrected Jesus, and it has the power to change us and make us a new person in Christ.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

What is your earliest memory? Where were you when it happened?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Lord, as we venture into the past to see how You change us, show us that You were there the whole time. That You were close then, even if we couldn't see it.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize this verse together by having each person read it aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together, so encourage everyone to meditate on these verses through the sermon series.*

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
[Ephesians 4:31-32]

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || **Leader Note** *Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 in the ESV. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not*

have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

1. What is the gospel? *In verses 1 and 2, Paul says he's reminding people of the gospel and says they 1. Received it, 2. Stand in it, 3. Are being saved by, if they're holding tight to the word he's preached. What do people in your group believe the gospel means? That Jesus died for our sins and was buried and raised? That the resurrection means new life can come to dead places? That there's hope for all of us? Sometimes the reason we "believe in vain" is because we've been taught a false gospel.*
2. What was in Paul's past that he brought to the table when Christ saved him? *Paul talks about persecuting Christians here, but people familiar with the book of Acts might be able to add that he also was a very educated pharisee and studied under a prestigious leader—Gamaliel. Paul had credentials and clout, and he used it all to see the Christian movement stamped out. Jesus saved him anyway.*
3. How did grace transform Paul from being a Christian killer to becoming who he was in that moment? *It definitely wasn't something that happened entirely overnight, though his meeting with Jesus was very sudden. The humbling was quick, but the journey of transformation was long, difficult, and full of beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, and intrigue. But how did grace do all that? It is such a mystery the mechanism by which we can follow Jesus one day and look back twenty years later and not recognize ourselves.*
4. How much weight does Paul give to what he did versus what Jesus did in the text? *We see that all of verse 9 is devoted to Paul's assessment of himself and where he stands because of his past. But zoom out to all of this passage and 1 Corinthians as a whole, and we see the blip of himself versus the vastness of what is to be found in Christ. When something is still unhealed in us, like a wound that is puffy and irritated, we see it in how much it affects everything. But a healed past doesn't disappear entirely, either—it is like a faded scar.*
5. What did you bring to the table when Christ saved you? *Encourage your group to list some things we might consider to be good or bad. Our stories are complex, and our baggage is sometimes the trophies (our successes) and the rocks (our hurts and failures).*
6. How far has grace brought you? How about this year? *Taking the longer view and the shorter view might help us to see the things we've encountered so far this year in their perspective of the long run.*
7. How much weight in your life is the past getting vs. the gospel? *Think in terms of the scripture and where the gospel hope affects your decisions versus the way you've done things. It may be that an injury or hangup or sin from the past is getting new light shone on it lately. That is grace—exposing what the Great Physician intends to work on next.*
8. What do you need to have the courage to bring to the light of grace? *Look for the fears. The fears are where it's still tender, where there's uncertainty, where we look for comfort. It is the motivation behind the hesitation to follow Jesus somewhere that feels dangerous.*
9. How can we help? *Anything that comes up here, pray. Anything that this conversation brings to light, thank the person for sharing and pray that Jesus does more. There will be more—there is always more than what is available in a group setting. But part of the grace of a group is that we can support each other.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Bring the past **before the light of His grace.**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) What in your past needs to be brought up in prayer? Matt mentioned several options: parents, hard things, sins, limits, faults, marriage, singleness, and physical challenges. 2) What hope in the gospel holds you through facing scary things?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!*

"Lord, we give You permission to bring grace to every corner of our souls. Look in buried places and find anything that needs to be healed. Be gentle with us, but do whatever it takes to let Your gospel transform us. Amen."